

JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/ Joint State Hearing
January 28, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:

- Non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries below Bonneville Dam.
- Select Area fisheries - Commercial and sport
- Non-Indian sport fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam.

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Forecasts and Returns				
Run	2005 Forecast	2005 Comments	2004	
			Preseason Forecast	Actual Return
<u>Spring Chinook</u>				
Willamette	116,900	Good, fifth largest since 1990	109,400	143,700
Sandy	7,400	Good, third largest since 1980	5,200	13,400
Cowlitz	12,700	Good, near the recent 5-year average (12,000)	15,900	16,700
Kalama	4,500	Good, greater than recent 5-year average (3,000)	6,000	4,600
Lewis	7,600	Continued improvement since lows in late 1990's	5,400	11,100
Select Area	10,200	Good, third highest since 1992	7,200-8,200	10,300
<u>Upriver Spring (Includes Snake River Summer Chinook)</u>				
Total Run	254,100	Good, third largest in the database (1979)		221,600
Snow River wild	23,400	Continued improvement since lows in late 1990's	46,200	32,900
Upper Columbia Wild	6,200	Twice the size of the 2004 return, 2nd largest since 1990	3,400	3,100
<u>Summer Chinook</u>				
Upper Columbia	62,400	Good, fourth largest since 1979	69,100	65,200
<u>Sockeye</u>				
Upriver	70,700	Improved significantly over late 1990's returns	80,700	124,000
Snow River	66	Poor, mostly returns from captive brood	154	120
<u>Steelhead</u>				
Wild Winter	27,000	Similar to 2002-2004 returns	32,200	33,900
Skamania Index	NA		18,300	21,000
Group A Index	NA		306,600	254,800
Group B Index	NA		63,200	33,200
Total Upriver Index	NA		388,100	309,000

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook/ Summer Chinook

- In 2003, the TAC completed an assessment of run timing of spring and summer chinook destined for the Snake River and Upper Columbia River (upstream of Priest Rapids Dam) basins. Analysis of PIT tag data indicates that a differential run timing exists between Snake River summer chinook and the Upper Columbia River summer chinook, with the Snake River component being earlier timed than the Upper Columbia River component. The TAC developed two new databases: 1) combined upriver spring chinook and Snake River summer chinook and 2) upper Columbia summer chinook.
- The upriver spring chinook run will now be defined as all spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer chinook. The listed portion of this run will be used to determine impacts to spring and summer chinook stocks listed under the ESA in the future. Upper Columbia River summer chinook are not listed under the ESA.
- For management purposes, counts of upriver spring chinook at Bonneville Dam will continue an additional two weeks, extending from January 1 through June 15.
- In addition, the summer chinook counts at Bonneville Dam will begin two weeks later, defining the summer timeframe as June 16 through July 31.

2005 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon

Interim Management Agreement

- The NMFS has provided a Biological Opinion on the “*Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook and Sockeye*” which will cover fisheries until a new Biological Opinion is issued for the 2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest matrix for upriver spring and Snake River summer chinook with impacts during 2005 limited to 12% for both non-Indian fisheries (2%) and treaty Indian (10%) fisheries combined.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- The states reinitiated consultation with NOAA Fisheries regarding impacts to wild winter steelhead and NOAA has responded with a Biological Opinion that establishes a 6% impact limit on wild winter steelhead for 2005.
- The states are conducting public meetings and will ask the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions (WFWC and OFWC) for policy guidance on allowing wild winter steelhead impacts to exceed 2% in 2005, which would be consistent with the Biological Opinion.
- Until policy guidance is given, the states will conduct fisheries in order to stay within the impact limits described in the following table.

Summary Of Non-Indian ESA Impact Limits	
<u>Chinook</u>	
Spring/Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 12%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 15%
<u>Sockeye</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Steelhead</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Trout</u>	
Bull Trout	0%

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Willamette River spring chinook was implemented in February 2001.
- The FMEP limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to ≤15% and requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in all freshwater fisheries.
- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) was most recently modified at the December 14, 2001 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The revised plan includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring chinook to sport and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 105,200 hatchery spring chinook the freshwater harvest of surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook (60,200 fish) is allocated 70% (42,100 fish) for sport fisheries and 30% (18,100 fish) for commercial fisheries.

Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation

- The following guiding principles and fishery management objectives were adopted by the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions (WFWC and OFWC) to provide the Joint Staff with preseason guidance when shaping fisheries and inseason guidance when managing fisheries during 2003-2005.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries, 2003-2005	
Guiding Principles	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. • Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement for upriver spring/summer chinook. • Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals. • Focus sport and commercial fisheries allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook. 	
Fisheries Management Objectives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available. • Provide for inseason management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to inseason information pertaining to catch and run size. • Adjustments to the sport fishery may occur inseason if it is estimated the fishery will not continue through April. Inseason adjustments may include such options as days/week and area closures. • Reduce sport fishing release mortality with a new regulation requiring “any salmon to be released may not be totally removed from the water”. • Recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River. • Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam, sport/tribal fisheries in the Snake River and Upper Columbia River, and commercial and sport fisheries in Select Areas. 	

- The Directors of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided staff with additional guidance for implementing OFWC and WFWC policies concerning allocation of non-Indian spring chinook impacts between sport and commercial fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts will be allocated 60% (1.2% impact rate) for sport fisheries and 40% (0.8% impact rate) for commercial fisheries.
- Preseason planning should focus on this allocation as a hard target, but inseason flexibility may be necessary.
- If possible, commercial fishing opportunity should be focused on the February-March timeframe to avoid conflicts with recreational anglers in April.
- Commercial fishers should maximize their efforts to avoid handling steelhead.

Sturgeon

- 2005 will be the ninth consecutive year in which a Joint State Agreement is used to guide Columbia River sturgeon fishery management.
- Modifications to the original 3-year agreement have been adopted as needed through a series of public meetings and Compact hearings.
- Management actions have also been adopted to establish a spawning ground sanctuary for over-size sturgeon in the area between Beacon Rock and Bonneville Dam.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.

- During 2003 and 2004, commercial and sport catches were in compliance with the annual guidelines established for 2003-2005 by the Joint State Agreement.
- At the February 6, 2003 hearing, the Compact adopted protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2003-2005.
- Season allocations within the sturgeon commercial fishery protocol were modified for 2005 at the December 2, 2004 Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group meeting.

<i>Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2005.</i>	
✓	Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,600 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,000 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
✓	Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
✓	Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
✓	Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
✓	Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
✓	Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch guidelines or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
✓	Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 18, 2005 to discuss Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines for 2005.
- Catch guidelines for all three pools remain unchanged from 2004.

<i>Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2005</i>			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville	700	400	1,100
The Dalles	400	900	1,300
John Day	165	335	500
Total	1,265	1,635	2,900

- The SMTF recognizes an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of approximately 300 white sturgeon.

Smelt

- A Joint State Eulachon Management Plan has been in effect since 2001.
- The Joint State Eulachon Management Plan provides for three levels of fishing based on 1) parental run strength, 2) juvenile production, and 3) estimates of ocean productivity.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2005 Smelt Fisheries

- A Level 2 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.

- The adopted fishery consists of two, 12-hour fishing periods per week (3 AM-9 PM Mondays and Thursdays) and is scheduled to occur during January 1 - March 31, 2005.
- Migration conditions during January in the past five years have all had low, clear flows and warmer than average temperatures.
- Water temperatures at Bonneville Dam during January 1-26 averaged 39.7°F, compared to the recent 5-year average of 41.7 °F. Flow at Bonneville Dam during the same period averaged 148 kcfs (range 120-198 kcfs) which is similar to the 5-year average of 150 kcfs. Turbidity during the same period averaged 6.2 feet (range 1.8-7.0 feet) compared to the recent 5-year January average of 6.3 feet.
- Water temperatures at Bonneville Dam have not exceeded 40°F since January 10, which would inhibit smelt entry to the Columbia River.
- Bird activity in the estuary and reports of seals and sea lions above Cathlamet may indicate smelt have begun to enter the river system.
- Commercial effort and catch in the mainstem Columbia River during January has been low with a small number of boats participating and a only a few ticketed landings reported to date.
- Level Two commercial and sport fisheries were adopted for Washington tributaries of the Columbia River for 2005.
- The Cowlitz and Lewis rivers are open to commercial smelt fishing two days per week (6 PM Sunday through 6 PM Monday and 6 PM Wednesday through 6 PM Thursday) during January 1-March 31, 2005. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing.
- The Grays, Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis rivers are open for sport smelt fishing two days per week (6 AM-10 PM Tuesday and Saturday) during January 1-March 31, 2005 with a daily bag limit of 10 pounds per person.
- No significant effort or catch has been observed or reported in Washington tributary sport or commercial fisheries during January.

2005 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- At the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing the initial winter commercial sturgeon season was adopted with a 1,800 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- The adopted fishery consists of five 24-hour fishing periods from 6 AM Tuesday to 6 AM Wednesday during January 18-February 16, 2005.
- Staff will consider an additional fishing period using large (9-9¾") mesh during February 22-23, based on results of the previous sturgeon fishing periods.
- The first two fishing periods resulted in landings of 118 white sturgeon, zero green sturgeon, and one spring chinook.
- White sturgeon catch rates to date are less than expected, and not likely to exceed the 1,800 white sturgeon catch guideline.

White Sturgeon Landings During Winter Commercial Seasons, 1999-2005							
Week	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jan. 5-11	--	--	994	773	389	--	--
Jan. 12-18	610	534	555	502	365	407	78
Jan. 19-25	248	205	360	338	408	428	40
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	189	139	341	409	328	375	
Feb. 2-8	225	75	384	134	--	234	
Feb. 9-15	211	247	--	469	--	252	
Total	1,483	1,200	2,634	2,625	1,490	1,696	118

2005 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery

- The 2004 winter salmon fishery consisted of nine fishing periods; six with large mesh (9 to 9¾-inch mesh) and three with tangle nets (≤4¼-inch mesh) and resulted in kept catches of 13,110 spring chinook and 174 white sturgeon.
- For 2004, a plan was developed in cooperation with the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group to maximize the catch of Willamette River hatchery spring chinook and minimize handle of listed upriver spring/summer chinook and wild winter steelhead.
- A similar plan is being proposed for 2005.

2005 Winter Season Commercial Fishing Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is proposing the following decision-making schedule for the 2005 winter season commercial fishery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Test fishing occurs on Sunday. ✓ Compact to occur Monday afternoon. ✓ Full fleet fishery may occur Tuesday depending on results from test fishing on Sunday. ✓ Use Tuesday full fleet fishery as test fishery or conduct test fishing on Tuesday. ✓ Compact to occur Wednesday afternoon. ✓ Full fleet fishery may occur Thursday depending on results from previous full fleet fishery or test fishing on Tuesday. 	

- ✓ Fishing plan will provide data necessary for making orderly fishery management decisions.
- ✓ Fishing plan will provide for timely adoption of fishing seasons based on data collected from the full fleet fishery or test fishing.
- ✓ Test fishing may be initiated in late February and the earliest full fleet fishing period could begin in early March.
- The 2005 mark rate is expected to be near 70% for upriver spring chinook and 80% for Willamette River spring chinook.
- The TAC reviewed the mortality rates used in the commercial fishery based on the results of research conducted during 2001-2003, and provided the following recommendations:
 1. Large mesh gear (8" or 9" minimum mesh size): 40% for spring chinook and 30% for steelhead.
 2. Small mesh gear (4¼" maximum mesh size): 18.5% for spring chinook and steelhead.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joint Staff is recommending that the following regulations be in effect during the 2005 commercial demonstration fishing season: 	
Season:	Individual fishing periods will not exceed 24 hours in length during large mesh fisheries and will not exceed 16 hours during small mesh fisheries.
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4) likely for majority of the fishery.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokom-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries.
Gear:	<p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms except for nets fitted with a steelhead excluder (175 fathoms).</p> <p>9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh sizes during large mesh fishery.</p> <p>4¼" maximum mesh size during tangle net fishery.</p> <p>Use of steelhead excluder encouraged by both Washington and Oregon management staff.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon. White sturgeon possession and sales restrictions to be determined based on gear and number of fish remaining on 2,000 fish guideline.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
New Regulations	As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding salmon or steelhead.</p> <p>Each vessel participating in this fishery is required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Operable recovery boxes require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to each chamber of the box(es). Each box must be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</p> <p>Lighted buoys are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</p>

- ✓ The proposed fishery will be managed to remain within ESA-related impact limits and WFMP catch allocations for listed upriver spring chinook, wild winter steelhead, and Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with guiding principles adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.
- ✓ The proposed fishery is expected to effectively target Willamette stock hatchery spring chinook while minimizing impacts to listed spring/summer chinook and steelhead.
- ✓ The 9" minimum mesh size restriction will target spring chinook while minimizing steelhead handle.
- ✓ The large B sanctuaries for Washington tributaries will increase protection for wild winter steelhead in the associated streams.
- ✓ Use of recovery boxes will improve the survival rate of all listed species. The use of nets fitted with a steelhead excluder is encouraged to further reduce steelhead handle.
- ✓ Night time seasons may be adopted to minimize commercial/sport interactions.

- ✓ Onboard monitoring will occur inseason and throughout the test fishery to determine species-specific encounter and mark rates for use in estimating cumulative impact rates.
- ✓ Oregon permanent regulations (OAR 635-006-0140) require that as a license condition, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department or Federal fishery observers, or observers collecting data for the Department.

2005 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season

- The proposed 2005 shad season is similar to seasons adopted during 1996-2004.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is recommending the following commercial fishery to allow the harvest of shad: 	
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM daily May 16-20 (5 days) May 23-27 (5 days) May 31- Jun 3 (4 days) June 6-10 (5 days) June 13-17 (5 days) June 20-24 (5 days)
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 ³ / ₈ " - 6 ¹ / ₄ " mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water.

- ✓ Area restrictions have been in effect since 1976 and gear restrictions have been in effect since 1996.
- ✓ The Joint Staff will estimate salmonid handle and mortalities in this fishery based on past years data.
- ✓ The catch expectation is for approximately 45,000 shad. Handle of other salmonids are expected to total <25 summer chinook (5 mortalities), <5 sockeye (1 mortality), <25 steelhead (10 mortalities), and up to 5 listed wild steelhead (2 mortalities).

2005 Non-Indian Washougal Reef Commercial Shad Season

- The proposed 2005 shad season is similar to seasons adopted prior to 2001.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is recommending the following commercial fishery to allow the harvest of shad:	
Season:	8 PM – 12 AM (midnight) daily May 15-19 (5 days) May 22-26 (5 days) May 29- Jun 2 (5 days) June 5-9 (5 days) June 12-16 (5 days) June 19-23 (5 days)
Area:	Waters of Zones 4-5 inside a line commencing at the white six-second equal-interval light approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ miles east of the Washougal Woolen Mill pipeline and projected westerly to the Washougal blinker light, thence to the four-second blinker light on the east end of Lady Island, thence easterly and along the shoreline of Lady Island to the State Highway 14 Bridge, thence easterly across the State Highway 14 Bridge to the mainland.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "-6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh size restrictions; and a 30-lb maximum breaking strength.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water.

- ✓ This fishery has not been adopted since 2000 due to lack of participation; however, Compact consideration for this fishery was requested by some fishers.
- ✓ The Joint Staff will estimate salmonid handle and mortalities in this fishery based on past years' data.
- ✓ The catch expectation is for approximately 5,000 shad. Handle of other salmonids are expected to total zero summer chinook, zero sockeye, <10 steelhead (4 mortalities), and up to 5 listed wild steelhead (2 mortalities).

2005 Anchovy and Herring Bait Fishery

- The anchovy and herring season is open year-round seaward of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, with seines of a mesh size not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch and not over 1,400 feet in length. All other species must be released.

NON-INDIAN SPORT FISHERIES

2005 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations.
- The ODFW and WDFW met with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group on January 21, 2005 to discuss season recommendations and inseason management of the Columbia River spring chinook fishery.
- A majority of the Recreational Advisory Group supported regulations to reduce harvest and associated impacts to listed species in the area immediately downstream of Bonneville Dam.

- The Recreational Advisory Group considered many options that would maximize fishing opportunity through April. A majority of the members agreed on a 7day/wk, 2 fish bag limit below a line near Corbett, Oregon, and to a reduced number of fishing days (3 or 4 days open) and a 1 fish bag limit above the Corbett boundary. In addition to the option reflected in the recommendation below, some other proposed options were:
 - ◆ Close the high impact area above Ives Island completely, creating a large sanctuary and open 4 days above Corbett area with a 1 fish bag limit.
 - ◆ Close the high impact area to boats only, but allow bank fishing 3 or 4 days/wk with a 1 fish bag limit.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is recommending the current mainstem Columbia River sport fishery be expanded to include additional sport fishing opportunity. Area-specific recommendations follow: <u>Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to McNary Dam (excluding Bonneville Pool).</u> <u>Buoy 10 to Rooster Rock</u> Area: Buoy 10 upstream to Rooster Rock. The Rooster Rock boundary is defined as a line running north from Rooster Rock to the Washington shoreline perpendicular to the thread of the Columbia River. Dates: January 1 – May 15, 2005 (or until spring chinook impact guideline is reached) from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge and March 16 – May 15, 2005 (or until spring chinook impact guideline is reached) from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Rooster Rock boundary line. Catch Limits: Oregon: Two adult salmon or steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon and two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. <u>Rooster Rock to Bonneville Dam</u> Area: Rooster Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam. The Rooster Rock boundary is defined as a line running north from Rooster Rock to the Washington shoreline perpendicular to the thread of the Columbia River. Dates: March 16 - May 15, 2005 (or until spring chinook impact guideline is reached) Open Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays only. Catch Limits: One adult salmon or steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. <u>Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam</u> Area: Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines. Dates: March 16 - May 15, 2005 (or until spring chinook impact guideline is reached) Catch Limits: Oregon: Two adult salmon or steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon and two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Miscellaneous Regulations: For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective during February 15 through May 15, 2005, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length, substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration, to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released. 	

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with guiding principles, fishery management objectives, and the allocation plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.

- ✓ The proposed fishery provides sport fishing opportunity to access surplus hatchery spring chinook and limits impacts to listed species.
- ✓ A mid-March opening (I-5 to Bonneville Dam), reduced fishing days, and a one-fish daily limit (Rooster Rock to Bonneville Dam) is intended to reduce impacts to listed species and extend the fishery.
- Based on discussion with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group the states have developed a fishing plan for the 2005 spring chinook sport fishery intended to extend the fishery for as long as possible throughout as much of the river as possible.

<i>2005 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
•	The Joint Staff is proposing the following decision making schedule for the 2005 spring chinook sport fishery
	✓ Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 5-May 15.
	✓ Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards the adopted upriver spring chinook impact guideline and modify the ongoing fishery as needed.
	✓ Modifications to the ongoing fishery will occur in the following order:
	1) Eliminate fishery between the Rooster Rock boundary and Bonneville Dam completely.
	2) Reduce fishery below the Rooster Rock boundary to less than seven days per week.
	3) Eliminate fishery below the Rooster Rock boundary completely.
✓	Manage the fishery in the lower Columbia River to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery above Bonneville Dam.

- ✓ Fishing plan maintains an orderly schedule for making fishery management decisions.
- ✓ Initial reduction in days per week, bag limits, and potential closures between Rooster Rock and Bonneville Dam maintains fishing opportunity for as long as possible.
- First fishery check point is scheduled for Tuesday April 5.

2005 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently closed to steelhead angling below I-5 Bridge during April 1-May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1-June 15 under permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad during open seasons for adipose fin-clipped spring chinook.	

2005 Tributary Spring Chinook Sport Fisheries

- No changes to permanent regulations for the Willamette, Clackamas, and Sandy river spring chinook sport fisheries.
- Washington tributary fisheries are shown in an accompanying document.

2005 Mainstem Sturgeon Sport Fishery

- Fishing during January was slow with reduced effort and catch rates.

- The projected white sturgeon catch for January 2005 is a record low 100 fish.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2005 Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Season

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open January 1-31, 2005.
- In Bonneville Pool, seven sturgeon have been landed and no landings have been reported for The Dalles or John Day Pools.

2005 Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Season

- The treaty Indian mainstem winter commercial season was adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.
- The adopted season includes all of Zone 6 from noon Monday February 1 through noon Sunday March 21.
- Other fishery regulations in effect include all standard sanctuaries, except no Spring Creek sanctuary; no mesh size restrictions; and allowable sales of salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, and carp.
- Size limits for sturgeon include 45"-60" limits for Bonneville Pool and 48"-60" for The Dalles and John Day pools. These limits were adopted at the Compact hearing on January 23, 2004.

2005 Treaty Indian Spring and Summer Ceremonial and Subsistence (C&S) Fisheries

- The tribes may recommend spring and summer C&S season options at this hearing.
- Sturgeon size limits will be consistent with those set for the winter gillnet season.

2005 Treaty Indian Experimental Zone 6 Target Shad Season

- In 2005, the tribes may implement a shad dipnet fishery during June at The Dalles Dam east ladder exit if a market can be identified. Gear and methods will have little or no adverse impact to listed salmonids.

SELECT AREA FISHERIES

- The 10,500 spring chinook landed in 2004 Select Area fisheries was the second highest on record (since 1992), surpassed only by the 11,699 fish landed in 2002.
- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, catch in winter-summer SAFE fisheries has been comprised of 83% local, 14% lower river, and 3% upriver stocks during 1998-2004.
- Since 1998 impacts to listed Snake River wild spring chinook have ranged between 0.01% and 0.20% and have averaged 0.11%. In 2004 the impact rate to upriver spring chinook was 0.040% for the winter fisheries and 0.060% for the spring fishery.
- Sport fisheries have increased in recent years. Based on limited creel surveys in 2004, minimum spring chinook catch estimates were 100 for Youngs Bay, 285 for Blind Slough, and 700 for Select Area tributaries.

- No winter or spring SAFE fishery is planned for the Tongue Point site in 2005 since 2003 marked the final year of significant adult returns from production-level releases of spring chinook that were discontinued in 2000 due to straying of returning adults.
- Staff considered input received from a survey mailed to participating Select Area commercial fishers in December 2004 and from a public meeting held in Astoria, Oregon on January 19, 2005 in developing recommendations for 2005 winter-summer SAFE fisheries.

Fishery Objectives

- Maximize commercial harvest while providing quality sport fishing opportunity.
- Minimize impacts on non-local chinook and steelhead.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following seasons for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Saturday and Wednesday nights from February 16 through March 10 (7 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday night April 21 through April 22 and Monday and Thursday nights during April 25 through June 17 (17 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only open during winter season and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas open during spring season.
Gear:	A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.

- ✓ The winter season is recommended to target early arrivals of age-5 spring chinook.
- ✓ Wednesday and Saturday night fishing periods during the winter season should maximize harvest and avoid overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- ✓ A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season will provide protection for steelhead equal to the 7¼-inch mesh used during 2003-2004. Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during the winter season is minimal.
- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season is recommended to target salmon and minimize sturgeon harvest.

- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures during the spring season will minimize interactions with recreational anglers.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for fishery modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Youngs Bay and Deep River (spring only) seasons at the participants request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.
- ✓ Commercial fishers have requested two spring season modifications including 1) extending the lower boundary of Knappa Slough to the western end of Minaker/Karlson islands (fall season boundary), and 2) consideration for opening South Channel. Staff will provide a recommendation on these requests after initiation of the 2005 spring Select Area fisheries when more information on current impacts to listed species is available.
- ✓ Based on results of the industry survey and the Select Area public meeting, several new Select Area regulations will likely be proposed for implementation in 2006 including:
 - Require use of shorter nets (≤ 150 -fathoms) for all fishing periods restricted to the upper Youngs Bay area (upstream of the Old Highway 101 Bridge) to reduce crowding.
 - Require red corks at 25-fathom intervals for all Select Area fisheries to facilitate enforcement of net length.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following season for the Deep River Select Area:	
Spring Season:	Thursday night April 21 through April 22 and Monday and Thursday nights during April 25 through June 17 (17 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock

- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to target salmon and minimize sturgeon catch.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational anglers.

- ✓ Sampling 100% of landings during this third year of the fishery provides for accurate documentation of stock composition.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for fishery modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough seasons at the participant's request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The ODFW staff is recommending the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Winter Season:	6 PM Wednesday February 16 - 6 AM Thursday February 17 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday February 19 - noon Sunday February 20 (18 hours) 6 PM Wednesday February 23 – 6 AM Thursday February 24 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday February 26 - noon Sunday February 27 (18 hours) 6 PM Wednesday March 2 - 6 AM Wednesday March 3 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday March 5 - noon Sunday March 6 (18 hours) 6 PM Wednesday March 9 - 6 AM Thursday March 10 (12 hours)
Spring Season:	6 PM Thursday April 21 - 6 AM Friday April 22 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday April 25 - 6 AM Tuesday April 26 (12 hours) 6 PM Thursday April 28 - 6 AM Friday April 29 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday May 2 - noon Tuesday May 3 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday May 5 - noon Friday May 6 (18 hours) Noon Monday May 9 - noon Friday May 13 (4 days) Noon Monday May 16 - noon Friday May 20 (4 days) Noon Monday May 23 - noon Friday May 27 (4 days) Noon Monday May 30 - noon Friday June 3 (4 days) Noon Monday June 6 - noon Friday June 10 (4 days) Noon Tuesday June 14 - noon Friday June 17 (3 days)
Summer Season	Noon Wednesday June 22- noon Friday June 24 (2 days) Noon Wednesday June 29- noon Friday July 1 (2 days) Noon Wednesday July 6- 6 PM Thursday July 7 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 13- 6 PM Thursday July 14 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 20- 6 PM Thursday July 21 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 27- 6 PM Thursday July 28 (1 day)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.
Gear:	A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring and summer seasons. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

- ✓ The 7-day winter season will target the first arrivals of the age-5 component of the run prior to the time when significant interceptions of non-local chinook stocks occur.
- ✓ Wednesday and weekend nighttime fishing periods in Blind Slough and Youngs Bay during the winter season should maximize harvest potential while avoiding overlap with mainstem fishing periods.
- ✓ A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season will provide protection for steelhead equal to the 7¼-inch mesh used during 2003-2004. Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during the winter season is minimal.
- ✓ The 28-day spring fishery opening in late April with short night time fishing periods through early May followed by extended periods for the remainder of the season is designed to maximize the harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to non-local stocks.
- ✓ Split fishing periods during the winter and early spring seasons allow for inseason modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing periods are concurrent with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River openings at the participant's request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.
- ✓ The 8-day summer fishery during June 22 through July 28 is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on remaining local spring chinook and early returning Select Area bright (SAB) stock fall chinook while allowing for SAB broodstock escapement.
- ✓ Fishing periods late in week during the summer season facilitate direct sales to public.

Select Area Sport Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2005 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1-July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho except for some tributary closures.
- Permanent Washington sport fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge open to chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1-July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.

Miscellaneous Commercial Regulations

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following modifications to the gear regulations for all Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, South Channel, Steamboat Slough, and Deep River Select Area fisheries:	
Gear:	Allow the attachment of additional weights and anchors directly to the leadline.

- This regulation was previously adopted at the September 16, 2004 Compact hearing.
- The regulation is needed to minimize gear loss in Select Area fisheries.
- Joint staff is recommending this regulation be adopted as permanent.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following description for the Sandy River commercial fishing sanctuary:	
Area:	The Columbia River within an area at the mouth of the Sandy River which is one-quarter mile in width extending out into the Columbia River from the Oregon bank at a right angle to the thread of the river between a point one mile below and a point at the upper easterly bank at the mouth of the Sandy River.

- The proposed description clarifies the commercial fishing sanctuary at the mouth of the Sandy River.

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint Staff recommends eliminating the Gnat Creek commercial fishing sanctuary.

- The current Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area fishing boundaries encompass the outdated Gnat Creek commercial fishing sanctuary which therefore is no longer needed for fishery management purposes.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing (via telephone) be scheduled for 1:00 PM February 18, 2005 to review non-Indian commercial winter season landings and review stock status of sturgeon and smelt.
- Additional Compacts may occur via telephone on Monday or Wednesday of each week beginning Monday February 28 to adopt fishing periods for the commercial demonstration fishery.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan and gear regulations (pages 8). ➤ Area 2S shad fishing season (page 9). ➤ Washougal Reef shad fishing season (page 10) ➤ Non-Indian spring chinook sport fishing plan and season (pages 11-12). ➤ Steelhead and shad retention during the non-Indian spring chinook sport fishery (page 12). ➤ Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries - Compact and Oregon State action (page 14). ➤ Deep River Select Area spring commercial fishery - Compact State action (page 15). ➤ Youngs Bay Select Area winter, spring, and summer fisheries - Oregon State action (page 16). ➤ Miscellaneous Commercial Regulations (pages 17-18)

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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